

## Embedding Literacy Authentically

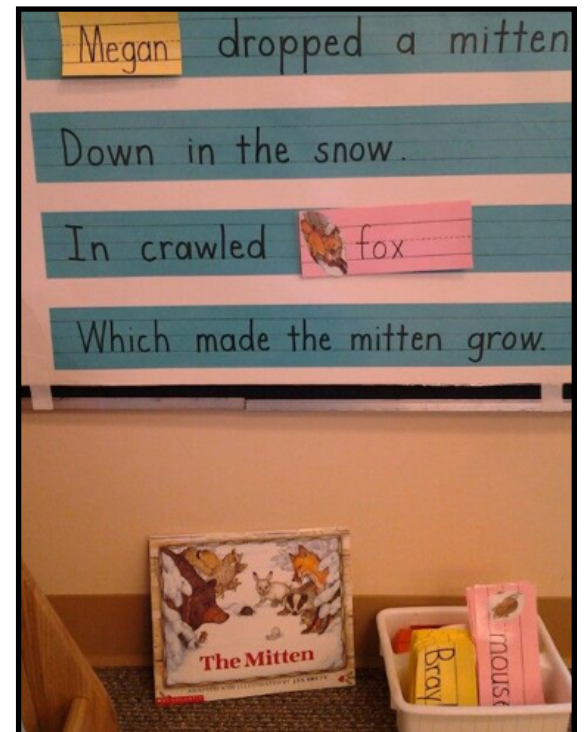
Young children's development of early literacy skills call for many opportunities and experiences to hear and understand spoken language, to learn about print and writing. Children need to be exposed to print to help them learn about reading, and reading to help them learn about writing. Teachers work to support young children's language and literacy development by using an interconnected process that transpires across various developmental domains. Children must be provided daily opportunities to actively engage in familiar and meaningful print activities versus teaching skills in isolation. Children are self-motivated to expand their early literacy skills when teachers integrate these skills into meaningful and playful activities in learning centers maximizing spontaneous teachable moments throughout the day. "Classrooms filled with print, language and literacy play, storybook reading, and writing allow children to experience the joy and power associated with reading and writing while mastering basic concepts about print that research has shown are strong predictors of achievement." (A joint positions statement of the International Reading Association and the National Association for the Education of Young Children, 1998).

### Guiding questions to encourage embedding literacy authentically:

- What are some ways that you include literacy throughout the classroom?
- How can you use Foundations and suggested strategies to support you in planning for literacy in the classroom?
- How do you differentiate literacy opportunities to support the individual needs of your children ?
- How might you use transitions to embed literacy skills?
- How can you encourage children's writing in meaningful ways?
- What are some ideas you might have for creating a dramatic play scenario to encourage authentic literacy?
- How can you promote literacy experiences at home that link to your topic of study?
- What literacy skills do you want to address?
- How are children's interests incorporated when initiating literacy learning opportunities?
- What are some ways that you encourage children's language?



During a building study, the teacher provides children with authentic literacy opportunities by inviting them to create blueprints & buildings

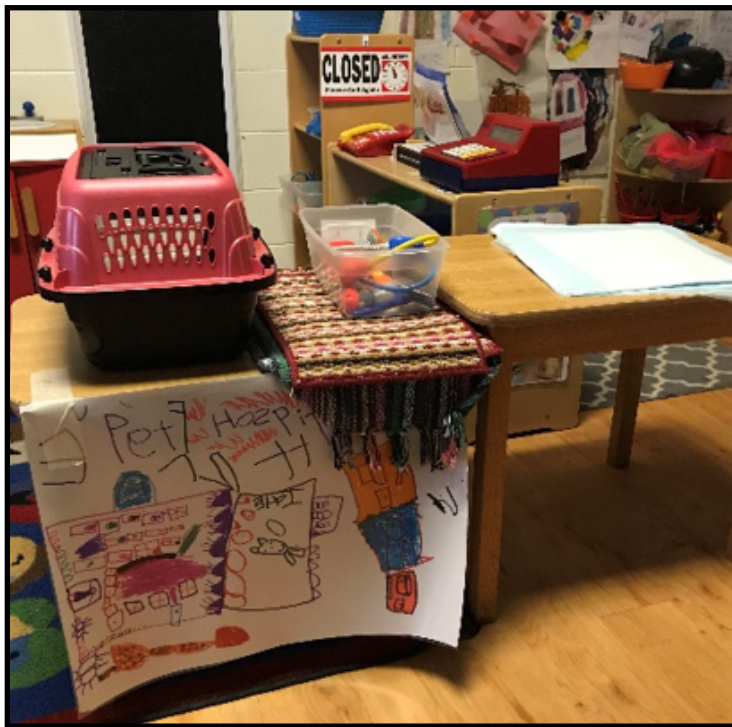


An interactive chart encourages the children to play with & manipulate language using a familiar story. This can be extended further by having children create their own movable pieces

## Mentor Minute (cont.)

### Other talking points might include discussions about:

- Creating a print-rich environment ; pairing visuals with print when possible or when it makes sense
- Regular read-alouds; incorporating books with repetitive phrases and predictable text
- Creating authentic opportunities for dramatic play scenarios to encourage children’s development of literacy skills by brainstorming and creating needed props and signs
- Creating interactive charts that encourage children’s reading with movable pieces or fixed repetitive texts
- Providing materials to encourage children to create their own books and class books
- Adding meaningful writing materials and literacy props to your learning centers
- Considering children’s interest and the focus of their play when initiating a literacy learning opportunity
- Creating writing opportunities connected to your current topic of study
- Taking advantage of teachable moments
- Model writing for children and consider ways to encourage writing
- Teaching through connection versus isolation; introducing letters using children’s names versus teaching a letter each week
- Finding authentic writing opportunities that strengthen the home-school connection
- Utilizing the developmental indicators and strategies found within Foundations to differentiate instruction



*During a pet study, the children & teacher turn the dramatic play center into a pet hospital. The teacher adds many play props, children assist in creating props & explore writing by creating a sign to display*



*The teacher provides materials to enable children to retell a familiar story and explore writing*

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### Additional resources about Embedding Literacy Authentically can be found below:

- [Five Predictors of Early Literacy \(video\)](#)
- [Promoting Preschoolers Emergent Writing \(NAEYC article\)](#)
- [Talk, Read, and Sing Together Everyday! \(tip-sheets\)](#)

Please be sure to also visit the [EESLPD Useful Resources](#) tab of our website to explore the Literacy section under Mentor/Evaluator Additional Resources

***Special thanks to Brooke Hough whom served as a guest contributor to this month's Mentor Minute***